



## Chinook Trail Association Annual Meeting Sunday, February 24



**Ryan Ojerio**  
Washington Trails Association  
Program Manager

At our annual meeting on February 24, CTA members and guests will be treated to a special program featuring Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association Program Manager for southwest Washington. Ryan will share with us the work that he does with WTA: their partnerships with government and non-profit organizations that build and maintain miles and miles of our favorite trails, and some of the vision for the future that is emerging from these partnerships.

Also sharing her thoughts from the speaker's podium will be Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle. A long-time CTA supporter, Anne will share with us her thoughts about our work together creating a better future for our region.

The meal is being catered by Kathryn of Artistic Catering. We gather at noon at the Water Resources Education

Center. \$25.00 will get you a place at a table. Couples are \$40 and children ages ten and under can come along for \$15.

**Be sure to send in the attached reservation form by February 17** to secure your place at the table. And be sure to invite your friends and family to join us.

### Menu Includes:

Frittatas - breakfast sausage  
and vegetarian  
Pumpkin Gingerbread  
Jam Scones with house jam  
made from local berries  
Yogurt  
Bananas  
Fresh brewed coffee, tea,  
and water

## Working Together - Fall Volunteer Groups Summit

*By Steve Jones*



Early in November, Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF) hosted a meeting of regional volunteer groups at Pearson Air Museum near downtown

Vancouver. In March, 2016 the

headquarters of the GPNF moved from the Orchards, WA area to an historic infantry barracks near Officers Row at Fort Vancouver (which is next to Pearson Air Museum).

We started with an ice-breaker, talking with someone we didn't know; learning a bit about them and the organization they represent. We then introduced them to the group. It was great to meet people from groups like Back

Country Horsemen of Washington, Great Old Broads of Wilderness, and the Mount St. Helens Institute.

Gala Miller, Community Engagement Specialist for the GPNF, led a discussion for Sustainable Recreation and Rural Schools grants and funding. The different Forest Service agencies around the country have been directed to look at usage and sustainability. Last year Gifford Pinchot National Forest held workshops and took public comments for facilities because budget cuts have caused some sites to be under-maintained. This year there will be public comment opportunities and workshops for gathering information about trails. Input from these

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## Working Together - continued from front page

workshops helps to formulate future Forest Service policies such as providing additional funding for locations, partnerships with volunteer organizations, and which locations should stay open.

Ryan Ojerio from Washington Trails Association led us through a model tailgate safety discussion. This is done at the beginning of WTA's volunteer work parties. Ryan

not only focused on safety but also on inclusion and how to communicate; as well as on issues that volunteers might have about personal limitations and what to do if a volunteer is uncomfortable with a situation.

The final part of our day was a slideshow featuring projects from the groups in attendance. Trail brushing, bridge building, and trail

building were some of the highlights. We ended the day feeling inspired to plan new projects for 2019 in partnership with Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The Forest Service plans to hold these meetings about every year to allow multiple volunteer organizations involved with the Forest Service to collaborate with each other and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest staff.

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## Annual Message from CTA President

*By Steve Jones*

2018 saw changes, growth, and loss for the Chinook Trail Association. One of our founders, Don Cannard, passed away this year. Also passing away were long-time members Larry Swatosh and Dr. Ed McAninch.

I thank these men for their vision and dedication over the 30-year history of the Chinook Trail. I wish they could have seen the completion of their dream, but many of us know this trail will take decades of dedication to complete. Although I don't expect the trail to be completed in my lifetime, we continue to move forward towards a vision of the Chinook Trail encircling the Columbia River Gorge. We expect our combined volunteer spirit to make this part of the world a better and richer place.

With a renewed drive to move our organization forward, we have recruited new board members this year. We have plans to construct new trails, forge new relationships, and share our passion for this trail for this year and the coming decades.

On the "to do list" for 2019 is the first ever trail guide for the hikeable portions of the Chinook Trail. This will give trail users a reliable resource for experiencing the beauty of the trail. To further make the CT more accessible, we will continue placing trail markers along the route, using our new CTA logo to guide people along the way.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to our members who have generously provided their time, membership dues, and generous gifts in response to our calls for raising funds. Thank you to the organizations who have provided grants, supplies, and food to help fuel and fund our volunteers so they can maintain and improve the Chinook Trail. Meeting volunteers and working together on our trail work parties always brings joy to my heart

and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with many new volunteers over the coming years.

Thank you again for the privilege and opportunity to work with all of you who make the Chinook Trail Association a going concern.

— Steve Jones, CTA President

### *In Memoriam*

#### **Larry Swatosh & Dr. Ed McAninch**

*Text by Ted Klump*

Longtime CTA officer and board member **Larry Swatosh** passed away last summer after struggling with failing health. Larry gave generously of his time, talents, and finances; and served many years on the Board of Directors including four years as president. He also served on the committee that did the leg work for our National Recreation Trail designation; and I could go on. His passion and commitment to CTA was exemplary and we will always be grateful for what he gave to the organization.

**Dr. Edward McAninch** passed away in December at the age of 93. Ed was a long-time loyal supporter of CTA and was an active and experienced outdoorsman. I had the privilege of working with him on trails, the last time when he was 85. Ed was a great guy and will be missed.



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# Department of Natural Resources Trail Access Group Meetings

*By Steve Jones*



When Washington became a state in 1889, the Federal government granted two square miles of every 36-square-mile township to generate revenue for education. In 1957, the Washington legislature created the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to manage these and other state trust lands. The DNR now manages 5.6 million acres to generate revenue and preserve forests, water, and habitat.

Every other month, volunteers from the Chinook Trail Association attend the Southwest Washington DNR TAG (Trail Access Group) meeting for collaboration, staying informed, and providing input. This meeting is attended by groups representing motorized and non-motorized recreational interests such as Pistons Wild, Washington Trails Association, and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance.

A typical meeting starts with DNR personnel giving updates to budgets, grants, and future and in-progress timber sales, and how the timber harvests will affect trails. The status of construction and maintenance projects such as new bridges and bathrooms as well as campground improvements are also detailed.

The next portion of the meeting is usually a summary of projects other groups are planning or working on. Groups look for opportunities to coordinate efforts and work together or adopt ideas.

The last part of the meeting usually is a forum where the groups provide feedback and get further information on DNR projects.

Attending these meetings helps us plan work parties, provide notice of trail closures, coordinate efforts with other groups, and liaison with the DNR.

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## Citizen Volunteers Needed *Text by Steve Klump*

The recent partial shutdown of the Federal Government has had a devastating impact on National Parks and other treasured public lands and facilities. Sadly we've seen garbage and human waste accumulating and, even worse, vandalism from criminal low lifers who enter our parks with evil intent. Recently some of the irreplaceable Joshua Trees in Joshua Tree National Park were cut down.

Besides this environmental degradation, the impact on the

lives of employees and contractors has been tragic. Hard working Americans have been subjected to anxiety and financial ruin that no one should have to bear—especially our dedicated public servants.

A recent article in *The Columbian* (Vancouver's local newspaper) put the spotlight on volunteers who have been helping keep Fort Vancouver clean and free of trash. It is a tribute to our community that people stepped up for this effort. Even better, they

didn't have as much work to do as they feared.

I'll refrain from political commentary and simply remind you that our participation in both the conversation and volunteer opportunities is both our birthright as Americans and our duty as faithful citizens. Sadly we know that this will not be the last time our politicians pull this stunt. Raise your voice to let them know how you feel about what they are doing and do tell them to do their jobs.

**The Chinook Trail** was chartered in 1988 as a non-profit 501c3 organization. The vision of the Chinook Trail Association (CTA) is to assist in the planning and construction of a 300-mile loop trail encircling the Columbia River Gorge, from Vancouver Lake to Maryhill State Park, Washington, and Biggs, Oregon to Portland and then back to Vancouver. The Chinook Trail is in the Washington State Trails Plan, the Oregon State Trails Plan, The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Trails Plan, and the Greater Metro trails plan utilizing the 40 Mile Loop Trail. Where and when appropriate, the CTA will participate in the maintenance of the trail system.



## Chinook Trail Association

P.O. Box 61686, Vancouver, WA 98666  
360-907-5733

[www.chinooktrails.org](http://www.chinooktrails.org)

[chinooktrails@comcast.net](mailto:chinooktrails@comcast.net)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendars

Sun., Feb. 24th

**CTA Annual Meeting**

RSVP by Feb. 17th

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

### Reservation for the Chinook Trail Association Annual Brunch

Participant Names \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of the catered meal is \$25 individual, \$40 couple, \$15 kids ages ten and under.

Please return this form in the enclosed envelope (including your check) to:

**Chinook Trail Association**

**P.O. Box 61686**

**Vancouver, WA 98666**

or contact Ted Klump at [tedklump@gmail.com](mailto:tedklump@gmail.com). Payment can also be made via our PayPal account through our website at [www.chinooktrails.org](http://www.chinooktrails.org).

To support the work of the Chinook Trail Association, click the donate button on our website at [www.chinooktrails.com](http://www.chinooktrails.com) or use the QR code to your right.

